

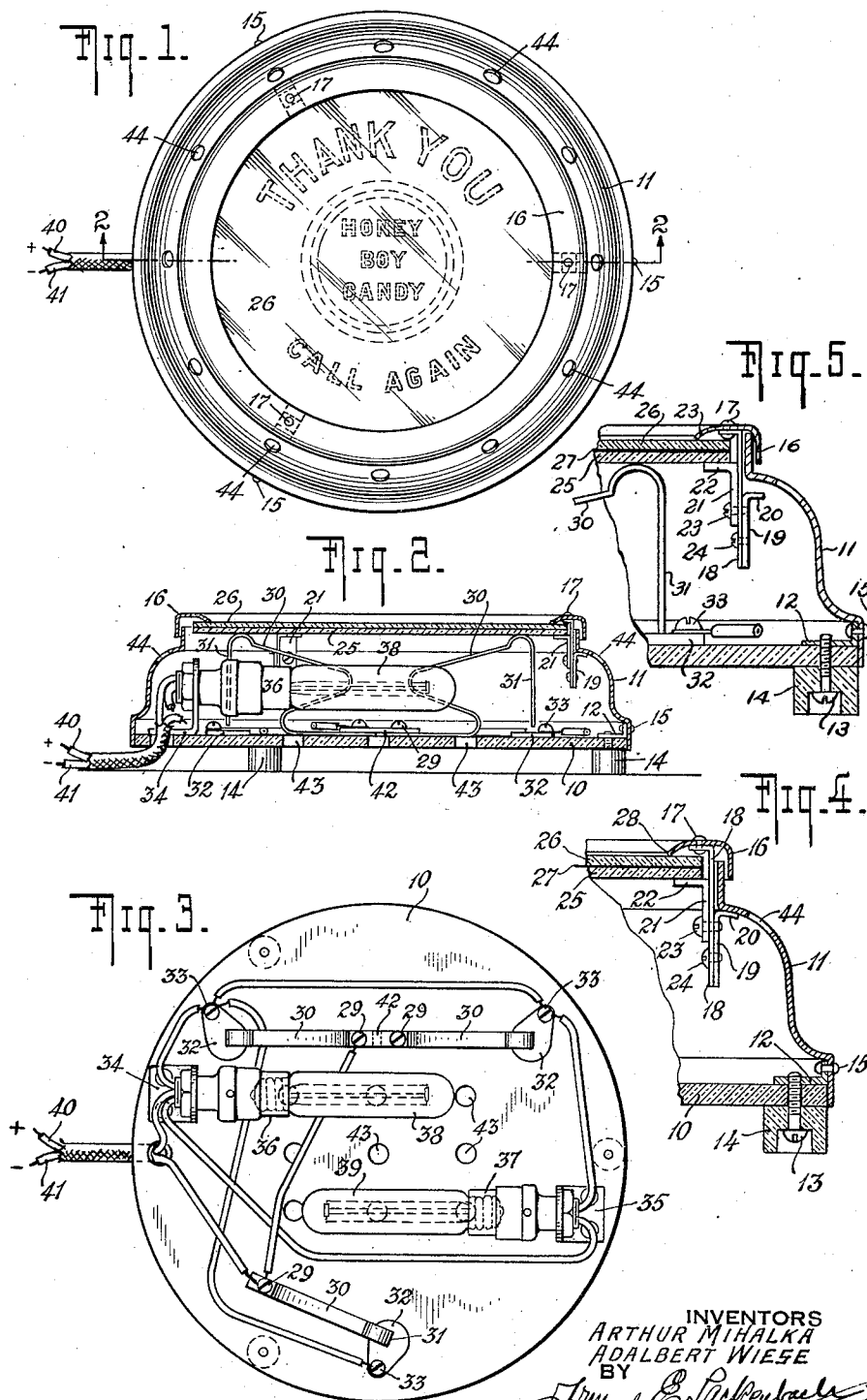
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ADVERTISING CHANGE RECEIVING TRAY

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ADVERTISING CHANGE-RECEIVING TRAY

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Our invention relates to an advertising device in the form of a change-receiving tray for use on the counter in front of the cashier in retail establishments, for instance, cigar stores, candy stores, restaurants, etc. The invention more particularly comprises a change receiver including an advertisement bearing plate forming a part of such receiver, said advertisement being adapted to be illuminated when change is being returned to a customer by the cashier. Our improved advertisement or sign displaying tray is, by reason of its construction, adapted to have the advertising legend thereon illuminated upon the customer's pressing upon the tray surface when removing a coin or coins placed thereon by the cashier. In this manner a conspicuous and attractive advertising legend appears illuminated before the customer which is illuminated only so long as such customer continues to exert a slight pressure on the surface of the tray in the course of removing the change therefrom.

An object of our invention is to provide a change-receiving tray having a display sign associated therewith which becomes illuminated and therefore legible only when pressure is exerted on the surface of the tray, i. e., when the hand of a customer comes in contact with the surface of the tray for the purpose of removing a coin or coins therefrom. A more particular object of our invention is to maintain the change-receiving plate in a "floating" manner upon spring members supporting the same so that the exertion of even an extremely light pressure upon any portion of the plate will depress the same a sufficient extent against the action of the supporting spring members to bring about the necessary contact of such spring members to complete the electric circuit which illuminates the bulb or plurality of bulbs positioned below said plate and thus illuminate the sign and render the same legible. A still further object of our invention is to provide a construction of an advertising change plate which makes possible the ready removal of the series of plates comprising the sign portion of the device and its replacement by another sign element bearing a different legend. More specific objects

of our invention will appear from the description hereinafter.

A specific embodiment of our invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, in which

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a device constructed in accordance with our invention,

Fig. 2 is a section along line 2—2 of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 is a plan view of our device with the cover and the plates containing the advertising legend removed, showing the disposition of the parts upon the base plate and the electric wiring employed therewith,

Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional detail through one of the clamping structures uniting the different elements of our device, showing the manner of maintaining the plates containing the advertising legend in what may be called a "floating" position upon the casing, and

Fig. 5 is a detailed view, similar to Fig. 4, showing the depressed position of the tray relative to the casing.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, in which similar reference characters identify similar parts in the several views, 10 is a base plate of preferably circular horizontal section of suitable insulating material, such as hardened artificial resin, upon which is supported a metal casing 11 secured thereto at a plurality of points along its circumference by means of angle irons 12, the horizontal base portions of which extend over the surface of the base plate 10 and are secured thereto by means of screw bolts 13 running through said base plate. At the points along the circumference of the base plate where the screw bolts 13 extend therethrough may be provided rubber lugs 14 having central apertures through which such screw bolts may be passed. The vertical portions of the angle irons 12 may be riveted to the casing 11 by spun rivets 15.

Disposed above and throughout the circumference of the upper edge of the casing 11 is a circular metal flange element 16 riveted as by spun rivets 17 at portions of the circumference of said casing, three of such rivets having been found by us to give a sat-

isfactory structure, to an angular metal strip 18 the depending portion of which is contiguous through a portion of its length with a metal strip 19 having a hooked top portion 20 which is of the same configuration as the portion of casing 11 with which it is shown in abutting relation when the "floating" plates hereinafter to be described are at the top-most extent of their "floating" position, as shown in Fig. 4. Contiguous with a portion of the other side of the angular metal strip 18 is still another metal strip 21 having a flange 22 extending from the upper edge thereof inwardly of the casing 11. The metal strips 18, 19, and 21 are fastened together by a screw bolt 23 passing through all three of said metal strips. The strips 18 and 19 are fastened together independently of the strip 21 by the screw bolt 24.

Upon the flanges 22 are placed two translucent plates of glass 25 and 26 having a sheet 27 of paper or any similar suitable material upon which is imprinted a legend such as "Thank you" or specific advertising matter, between them. The plates 25 and 26 are retained in their position upon the flanges 22 by the pressure of the inner peripheral edge 28 of the flanged element 16.

Suitably disposed on the surface of the base plate 10 and secured thereto by screws 29 are a plurality of spring members 30, three being shown in the embodiment of our invention illustrated, the spring members being made of strips of metal given the criss-cross configuration shown in Fig. 2 terminating in depending portions 31, the points at which such depending portions join the body portions of such spring members serving as supporting surfaces for the plate 25. The resiliency of the spring elements is sufficiently great to exert a pressure upwardly against the glass plate 25 and to press the plate 26 superposed thereon against the flanged portion 16 so that the plates 25 and 26 and the sheet 27 therebetween are maintained by said spring members at the uppermost extent of their "floating" position.

At the points upon the base plate 10 immediately below the lower extremities of the depending portions 31 of the spring members are provided metal contacts 32 secured to the base plate by means of screws 33. Mounted at suitable portions of the surface of the base plate 10 are two socket supporting members 34, 35 upon which are mounted electric sockets 36, 37 of any suitable construction having electric bulbs 38, 39 screwed therein. The electric bulbs or light units 38, 39 may be of any suitable form although we have found that the long, narrow type is best suited to our construction, taking up very little vertical space and diffusing their light over the greatest possible area. We have found also that the frosted or glazed type of glass usual with the more modern type

of lighting units diffuses the light emitted by the unit more uniformly and over a greater area than does the unglazed or unfrosted type of lighting unit.

The electric circuit necessary for the operation of our device is extremely simple and may obviously admit of a variety of designs. A source of energy such as a battery or electric outlet is connected by two insulated wires 40, 41, by the former to the sockets 36, 37, and therefrom to the contacts 32, and by the latter, to the screws 29. The screws 29 of the spring members 30 are connected by insulated wiring to each other to form the negative portion of the circuit. The positive portion of the circuit is traced from the wire 40, through the socket 36, lamp 38, to socket 37, lamp 39, and contacts 32. The lamps are thus connected in series. A detailed explanation herein of the electric circuit is not deemed necessary since such circuit may obviously be varied within wide limits, the circuit illustrated being merely typical of any of a number of such circuits which may be employed. Thus, while we have described three spring members and two light units as being provided, it is to be understood that we consider it to be within our invention to provide a greater or lesser number of spring members and/or light units than the number illustrated in the drawing, so long as the advantages and objects of our invention are obtained by such constructions.

Coming now to a description of the operation of our device, the plates 25 and 26, between which is positioned an advertisement bearing strip of paper or similar material, are supported upon the spring members 30 which normally press said plates upwardly against the flange element 16. If now, a coin is placed upon the top surface of the plate 26 and the customer to whom such coin is given as change, reaches for the coin upon said plate and grasps the same he will unconsciously exert a slight pressure upon the plate in the course of picking up such coin from the plate surface. The slight pressure thus exerted will depress the plate 26 and therefore the plate 25 and will compress the spring members 30, bringing the depending portions 31 thereof into contact with the contact plates 32 and completing the electric circuit through the light units. The light units will then become illuminated, lighting up the interior of the casing and therefore the plates 25 and 26 whereupon the advertising legend mounted between said plates will become illuminated and legible through the upper plate 26. The illumination of the light units will continue so long as the hand of the customer remains upon the plate 26 which serves as the change receiving tray, i. e. so long as there is the slightest pressure exerted upon said plate.

The "floating" extent of the plates 25, 26 and the sheet contained therebetween, is de-

finished by the distance between the ends of the depending portions 31 of the spring members and the contact plates 32 on the base plate. This distance is approximately the same as the distance between the inner surface of the flange element 16 and the upper periphery of the casing 11. When the plates 25 and 26 are depressed, the flange element 16 and the angular metal strip 18 riveted thereto are lowered the same extent, by reason of their connection by screw 23 to the metal strip 21 depressed by the plates 25, 26. The extent to which the connected elements are depressed is limited by the abutment of the inner surface of the flange element 16 against the upper peripheral edge of the casing 11. Thus, a depression of the plates 25, 26 a greater amount than is necessary to bring the ends of the depending legs 31 of the spring members into contact with the contacts 32 is prevented so that a bending of the portion 31 and thereby a departure from its designed extent of movement by excessive pressure on the plate 26 is avoided. Similarly, the upper extent of the floating position of the plates 25, 26 is limited by the abutment of the hooked top portion 20 of the metal strip 19 against the inner surface of the casing 11.

Our new change tray is so designed, as will be apparent from an inspection of the drawing, that the exertion of pressure upon any portion of the upper surface of the plate 26 will cause one or more of the spring members 30 to be compressed and thereby cause their respective depending portions 31 to come in contact with the surface of one or more of the contacts 32 completing the electric circuit through both of the lighting units 38 and 39. For reasons of facility in the manufacture of the spring members 30, all of such spring members are illustrated as being of the same configuration, although it is obvious that any two of said spring members may be made integral obviating the necessity of using a connecting strip 42 to join the two spring members which are disposed in alignment as shown in the upper portion of Fig. 3. It is also obvious that while we have described three such spring members as giving the most preferred construction of the device, a lesser or greater number of such spring members distributed over the surface of the base plate 10 and suitably connected by the necessary electric wiring may be used. Also, while we have described and illustrated two electric light units in connection with our device it is obvious that one of such or similar light units may be sufficient, designing the electric circuit to suit the particular arrangement and number of spring members and light units used.

In order to dissipate any heat which may be developed by the light units 38 and 39 and in order to provide the necessary ventilation of the interior of the casing of our device,

we provide a number of apertures 43 in the base plate 10 and a series of apertures 44 distributed throughout the circumference of the casing 11.

In order to remove the plates 25, 26 and the advertisement bearing sheet positioned therebetween from our device in order to change the legend appearing on said sheet or to substitute another sheet bearing a different legend therefor, it is only necessary to unscrew the screw bolts 13, remove the casing 11 from the base plate and then to remove the screws 23. The angular strips 21 supporting the plates 25 and 26 on the inwardly extending flanges 22 of said strips, will then be capable of removal to permit the sliding of the plates 25, 26 downwardly past the screws 24 and out of the interior of the casing 11. When the desired change in the sheet 27 has been made, such sheet and the plates 25, 26 may be replaced into their original positions against the peripheral edge of the flange element 16, the angular strips 21 being replaced and secured to the strips 18 by the replacement of the screws 23.

While we have described a specific embodiment of our invention it is obvious that various modifications therein and in the arrangement of the parts may be made without departing from the spirit of our invention.

We claim:

1. In a device of the character described, the combination of a base, a casing, a change receiving plate, an advertising legend bearing element associated therewith, a lighting unit secured to said base, a plurality of spring members mounted on said base at different points under the casing so that they are in a position to support all parts of it and resiliently supporting said change receiving plate, and forming the sole support therefor and an electric circuit including said spring members and said lighting unit.

2. In a device of the character described, the combination of a base, a casing, a change receiving plate, an advertising legend bearing element associated therewith, a lighting unit secured to said base, a plurality of electric contacts on said base, a plurality of spring members mounted on said base at different points under the casing so that they are in a position to support all parts of it and serving as a sole means of resiliently supporting said change receiving plate, and an electric circuit including said spring members, said contacts and said lighting unit.

3. In a device of the character described, the combination of a base, a casing, a change receiving plate, an advertising legend bearing element associated therewith, a lighting unit secured to said base, a plurality of electric contacts on said base, a plurality of spring members mounted on said base at different points under the casing so that they are in a position to support all parts of it

and serving as a sole means of resiliently supporting said change receiving plate, said spring members having depending leg portions terminating immediately above and at a distance from said contacts, and an electric circuit including said spring members, said contacts and said lighting unit.

4. In a device of the character described, the combination of a base plate, a change tray, an advertisement bearing element associated therewith, a plurality of spring members secured to the surface of said base plate at different points under the casing so that they are in a position to support all parts of it, and serving as a sole means of supporting said change tray in a floating position for movement vertically, an electric circuit, an illuminating unit upon said base plate, a plurality of contacts on said base plate, said spring members being adapted, upon pressure exerted upon the upper surface of said change tray whereby said tray is depressed, to contact with the contacts on said base plate, to complete the electric circuit through said lighting unit, lighting the same to illuminate the change tray and render the advertising legend legible therethrough.

5. In a device of the character described, the combination of a base plate, a casing removably mounted thereon, a change tray, an advertisement bearing element associated therewith, a plurality of spring members secured to the surface of said base plate at different points under the casing so that they are in a position to support all parts of it, and having depending portions normally disposed to have their ends immediately above and at a distance from the surface of said base plate, said spring members serving as a sole means of supporting said change tray in a floating position for movement vertically, an electric circuit, an illuminating unit upon said base plate, a plurality of contacts on said base plate, said spring members being adapted, upon pressure exerted upon the upper surface of said change tray whereby said tray is depressed, to contact with the contacts on said base plate, to complete the electric circuit through said lighting unit, lighting the same to illuminate the change tray and render the advertising legend legible therethrough.

6. In a device of the character described, the combination of a base plate, a casing removably mounted thereon, a change tray, an advertisement bearing element associated therewith, a plurality of spring members secured to the surface of said base plate at different points under the casing so that they are in a position to support all parts of it, and having depending portions normally disposed to have their ends immediately above and at a distance from the surface of said base plate, said spring members serving as a sole means of supporting said change tray in a

floating position for movement vertically within limits defined by a portion of said casing, an electric circuit, an illuminating unit upon said base plate, a plurality of contacts on said base plate, said spring members being adapted, upon pressure exerted upon the upper surface of said change tray whereby said tray is depressed, to contact with the contacts on said base plate, to complete the electric circuit through said lighting unit, lighting the same to illuminate the change tray and render the advertising legend legible therethrough.

7. In a device of the character described, the combination claimed in claim 1 in which the change receiving plate is removably mounted within the casing to facilitate the ready interchange of the advertisement bearing element.

8. A device as claimed in claim 1 in which the change receiving plate comprises a translucent glass plate.

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